Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

In the Claims:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. **CANCELLED**

2. (Previously presented) The liquid composition of claim 30 comprising about 0.1 % to about 2 % by weight of the near infrared absorbing agent, about 30 % by weight to about 45 % by weight of the carrier vehicle; and about 55 % by weight to about 70 % by weight of the solvent system, each based upon the total weight of the composition.

3. (Previously presented) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim 30 further comprising an one or more organofunctional silane additive(s) selected from the group consisting of aminofunctional silanes, epoxyfunctional silanes and vinylfunctional silanes.

4. (Original) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim 3, wherein the one or more organofunctional silane additive(s) are present in the amount of about 0.01 % to about 2 % by weight of the liquid composition.

5. **CANCELLED**

6. (Currently amended) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim 30, wherein the carrier vehicle is at least one of a homopolymer or a copolymer selected from the group consisting of cellulose, polyacrylics, polyurethanes, polyesters, polyvinyls, polyamides, and polyolefins. ~~, and derivatives~~

7. (Original) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim 6, wherein the carrier vehicle comprises an acrylic copolymer.

8. (Currently amended) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim 7, wherein the carrier vehicle ~~further~~ comprises a polyurethane.

9. (Previously presented) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim 30, wherein the carrier vehicle comprises a water-borne carboxyl and hydroxyl functional acrylic copolymer.

10. **CANCELLED**

11. (Previously presented) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim 30, wherein the carrier vehicle comprises a copolymer formed by polymerization of monomers comprising:

(a) about 45 % to about 55 % by weight butyl acrylate,

(b) about 38 % to about 45 % by weight methylmethacrylate,

(c) about 4 % to about 10 % by weight hydroxyethylmethacrylate,

(d) about 0 % to about 8 % by weight methacrylic acid, and

(e) about 0 % to about 2 % by weight acrylic acid.

12. (Previously presented) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim 30, wherein the carrier vehicle comprises a copolymer formed by the polymerization of monomers comprising:

(a) about 40 % to about 70 % by weight methylmethacrylate,

(b) about 10 % to about 30 % by weight ethylacrylate,

(c) about 20 % to about 30 % by weight dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate.

13. (Previously presented) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim 30, wherein the solvent system comprises a ketone.

14. (Original) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim 13, wherein the ketone is selected from the group consisting of acetone, and methylethylketone.

15. (Original) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim 13, wherein the solvent system further comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of alcohols, terpenes, and glycol ethers.

16. (Previously presented) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim 30, further comprising one or more additives selected from the group consisting of ultraviolet absorbers, flatting agents, slip agents, and pH modifiers.

17. (Original) A liquid composition for coating surfaces comprising;

(a) a near infrared absorbing agent selected from the group consisting of compounds of the formula (I):

$$[(R_2NZ)_2N{=}Z'{=}NR_2]^{2+} + 2X^- \quad (I)$$

wherein R is an alkyl group of about 1 to about 6 carbon atoms; Z is a divalent phenyl which may or may not be ring substituted with one or more alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, and carboalkoxy groups; Z' is a quinoidal phenyl which may or may not be ring substituted with one or more alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, and carboalkoxy groups; and X is an anion of a strong acid, and

compounds of the formula (II):

$$[(R_2NZ)_3N]^+ + X^- \quad (II)$$

wherein R is an alkyl group of about 1 to about 6 carbon atoms; Z is a divalent phenyl which may or may not be ring substituted with one or more alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, and carboalkoxy groups; and X is an anion of a strong acid;

(b) a carrier vehicle comprising a copolymer formed by polymerization of:

(i) about 45 % to about 55 % by weight butyl acrylate,

(ii) about 38 % to about 45 % by weight methylmethacrylate,

(iii) about 4 % to about 10 % by weight hydroxyethylmethacrylate,

(iv) about 0 % to about 8 % by weight methacrylic acid, and

(v) about 0 % to about 2 % by weight acrylic acid; and

(c) a solvent system.

18. (Original) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim 17, wherein the near infrared absorbing agent is present in an amount of about 0.01 % to about 2 % by weight of the composition; the carrier vehicle is present in an amount of about 20 % to about 60 % by weight of the composition; and the solvent system is present in an amount of about 40 % to about 80 % by weight of the composition.

19. (Previously presented) A liquid composition for coating surfaces comprising,

(a) a near infrared absorbing agent selected from the group consisting of compounds of the formula (I):

$$[(R_2NZ)_2N{=}Z'{=}NR_2]^{2+} + 2X^- \quad (I)$$

wherein R is an alkyl group of about 1 to about 6 carbon atoms; Z is a divalent phenyl which may or may not be ring substituted with one or more alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, and carboalkoxy groups; Z' is a quinoidal phenyl which may or may not be ring substituted with one or more alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, and carboalkoxy groups; and X is an anion of a strong acid, and compounds of the formula (II):

$$[(R_2NZ)_3N]^+ + X^- \quad (II)$$

wherein R is an alkyl group of about 1 to about 6 carbon atoms; Z is a divalent phenyl which may or may not be ring substituted with one or more alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, and carboalkoxy groups; and X is an anion of a strong acid;

(b) a carrier vehicle comprising a copolymer formed by polymerization of:

(i) about 40 % to about 70 % by weight methylmethacrylate,

(ii) about 10 % to about 30 % by weight ethylacrylate,

(iii) about 20 % to about 30 % by weight dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate, and

(c) a solvent system.

20. to 29. **CANCELLED**

30. (Previously presented) A liquid composition for coating surfaces comprising

(a) about 0.01 % by weight to about 2 % by weight of a near infrared absorbing agent selected from the group consisting of compounds of the formula (I):

$$[(R_2NZ)_2N{=}Z'{=}NR_2]^{2+} + 2X^- \quad (I)$$

wherein R is an alkyl group of about 1 to about 6 carbon atoms; Z is an unsubstituted divalent phenyl or a divalent phenyl substituted with at least one moiety selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, and carboalkoxy groups; Z' is an unsubstituted quinoidal phenyl or a quinoidal phenyl substituted with at least one moiety selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, and carboalkoxy groups; and X is an anion of a strong acid, and

compounds of the formula (II):

$$[(R_2NZ)_3N]^+ + PF_6^- \qquad \text{(II)}$$

wherein R is an alkyl group of about 1 to about 6 carbon atoms; Z is an unsubstituted divalent phenyl or a divalent phenyl substituted with at least one moiety selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, and carboalkoxy groups; and X is an anion of a strong acid;

(b) about 20 % by weight to about 60 % by weight of a carrier vehicle; and

(c) about 40 % by weight to about 80 % by weight of a solvent system, each based on the total weight of the composition.